



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **INDEPENDENCE COMPANY PLEADS GUILTY TO SHIPPING CONTAMINATED MEAT**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Independence, Mo., company pleaded guilty in federal court today to shipping nearly 7,000 pounds of meat contaminated by rodent infestation.

**Commercial Distribution Center, Inc.**, a cold-storage warehouse at 16500 East Truman Road in Independence, waived the right to a grand jury and company president Doris M. Jones pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this afternoon to a federal information that charges the firm with causing meat food products to become adulterated and unfit for human consumption after being held in unsanitary conditions such that the products became contaminated by rodent infestation.

In March 2002, **Commercial Distribution Center** received, stored, and transported meat and poultry products. During this time, Graves said, various meat and poultry products became contaminated due to rodent infestation at the warehouse. Subsequently, these meat and poultry products were shipped in interstate commerce from the **Commercial Distribution Center** warehouse to various food wholesalers for eventual distribution to the public.

Those wholesalers who received shipments from **Commercial Distribution Center** discovered the adulterated product, Graves added, and the meat was destroyed.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney William L. Meiners. It was investigated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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